The Urban Teacher Preparation Academy (UTPA) prepares pre-service teachers to better serve diverse student in high-need Oklahoma City public schools. The program places selected upper-level education majors in Oklahoma City Public elementary, middle and high schools for the student teaching experience. This is followed by two years of induction support that includes monthly specialized professional development opportunities and ongoing mentoring by specially trained OKCPS teachers and administrators.

To be considered for acceptance to the Urban Teacher Preparation Academy, applicants must be a teacher ed/TE-Plus student, and have an interest in teaching in the Oklahoma City Public Schools district.

There are more schools wanting UTPA graduates than there are graduates available. To date, all UTPA graduates who wanted to stay in OKC have been employed by OKCPS - although not necessarily in the building where they completed their internship (e.g. due to lack of openings at the internship site).

Financial incentives for UTPA interns:
- UTPA scholarships and stipends
- Funds for classroom supplies

Financial incentives for UTPA early career teachers:
- UTPA stipends
- Funds for classroom supplies

The Urban Teacher Preparation Academy has three goals:
- Enhancing the preparation of pre-service teachers to better serve the diverse needs of students in high-need schools in urban environments.
- Enhancing clinical experiences for pre-service teachers.
- Enhancing support for early career teachers via the UTPA professional network.

Candidates may begin internship in a fall or spring semester. Apply to UTPA one semester, or ideally, two semesters prior to internship. Application deadlines are Oct. 1 and March 1.

TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE:
Dr. Teresa DeBacker, Associate Dean
Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education
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KICK YOUR CAREER INTO HIGH GEAR WITH URBAN TEACHER PREPARATION ACADEMY

UTPA offers many advantages for participants, including:
- Student teaching in OKCPS with intensive mentoring
- Additional mentoring during the first years of employment with OKCPS
- Membership in the UTPA network, an exclusive group of committed and highly effective urban educators